Our Times In Prophecy, No. 9.

BY JOHN CULP.

In this number will be continued the attitude of Romanism and Protestantism toward each other religiously. The following quotations are found in *Zions Watch Tower*, Pittsburgh, Pa.

As the conflict with Materialism and Agnosticism has been waxing hotter and hotter, to use the words of the *Century*, a Protestant paper, "it must have become evident to intelligent Protestants that they have in the Roman Catholic theologians a strong body of allies with whom they ought to maintain friendly relations." The Century also acknowledges, that "the Roman Catholic doctrine and practice regarding divorce are much closer to the law of the New Testament than those of Protestant churches have been." It speaks also of the earnest effort at the present time to bring the practice of the Protestant churches a little nearer to the Roman Catholic Standard." Z. W. T. Feb., 1884.

All this is in the current into which our religion is to drift as the Century says, "of a reunion in the future between the Roman Catholic and Protestant bodies."

Again we read, that at the M. E. Church Conference Nov. 9, 1885, Bishop Foster addressing the twelve bishops and forty laymen of the Conference with the large audience present, among other things, said, as reported in the daily press:—"The world's population is 1,500,000,000. Of these, Christians number less than a third. Half of that third belong to the Roman Catholic church. The Protestants number 113,000,000. They are divided into 500 sects. And this number of their strength includes, also, all the thieves, ex-convicts, the debased, besotted, the speckled and streaked in Christendom. The popular idea is that the church of Rome is anti-Christ. I don't agree with the popular belief. I regard that wonderful institution as a great Christian camp." Z. W. T., January, 1886.

The reader will please note the standing of the authors of these quotations. It is not a pet theory that is being put forth here by the writer, but that which has all the foundation for a fact. The following quotation is again from an eminent preacher, Rev. Mr. Donehoo (Presbyterian), of Pittsburgh.

"Wince as you will, you must admit that this (the Catholic church) is the Mother church. She possesses an unbroken history extending back to the times of the Apostles. For every fragment of religious truth which we prize we are indebted to her as the depository. If she has no claims to being the true church, then are we bastards and not sons."

Rev. Mr. Donehoo continues: "It (the Catholic church) holds up Christ as the Savior of mankind. It is engaged in Christ's work—feeding the hungry, sheltering the orphan, reclaiming the fallen, providing hospitals for the sick and suffering, asylums for the poor and aged, and reaching a class whom the most zealous Protestant can never influence. Talk about missionaries to labor amongst Romanists! I would as soon think of sending missionaries amongst Methodists and Episcopalians and United Presbyterians and Lutherans for the purpose of converting them into Presbyterians." Z. W. T., April, 1885.

While noting these facts the following clipped from *The Catholic* of Pittsburgh will be of special interest. It says:

"For centuries Protestant writers in every land drew up the most terrifying pictures of Catholicity. The adoption of downright infidelity was preferable according to Protestantism, to affiliation with Catholicity. In European countries wherever Protestantism grasped the secular powers, persecution and exile became the lot of Catholics. The change of religion in England was affected by the Mormon wife slayer Henry VIII, and bloody Queen Bess, by the confiscation of all church property, and dire persecution and expulsion of Catholics. Churches were destroyed, and perverted to the use of the established pet, which, by the way the English people are now tired of maintaining, as made evident in the late election. All this is now changed, and the "horrors of Rome" is no longer a "taking" subject to dwell upon, except by some ignoramus, who confines his abilities to the backwoods. Henry Ward Beecher advises one of his flock who approached him for information to go and become a Catholic, and she would be safe in doing so. Sam Jones calls long and loud for heavenly benedictions upon the work of the Catholic church, and many other distinguished divines pay the church marked respect, though following different doctrines." Z. W. T. June, 1886.

Following is another clipping from the Catholic that connects itself very well here in the subject.

"We entertain no other feeling but that of pity for the man who rehashes the worn out calumnies of Protestant bigotry and hate, at a time that Protestants and Catholics are being brought closer together, and to a *clearer understanding* of the religious issues that keep them separated." Z. W. T., April, 1885.

Nothing but distinguished authority has been referred to on the subject, and the authority certainly will be appreciated when Henry Ward Beecher is quoted upon the subject. The following is clipped from his sermon delivered in Plymouth church, New York, Feb. 1, 1885.

So, then, if in any church men are helped by ordinances; if the Catholic church suits the wants of a man and he is conscientious that he is growing there better than he could any where else, very well. This is without prejudice to a man who says: "I can't go the burdensome operations of the Catholic church, but I can take the helps afforded me by the Episcopal church." Very well; let him help himself and with no prejudice to him who says: "I can't stand all this flummery. I am a Presbyterian, and I believe in good plain worship." Very well, take it without prejudice to a Quaker, who says: "I don't believe in any forms. I believe in the silence of the soul which God illuminates." Very well take that.

Every man is free, and no man is master of anybody else's freedom. If any body wants to go into the Roman Catholic church, and I think he is good enough, let him come to me and I will give him a letter of dismissal from this church and send him there. I have done it already in one instance, and I have no doubt that that young girl is better off than she would have been in this church."

More might be quoted from this remarkable sermon, but might not be in justice to the author. Those interested in the subject should read the sermon throughout, and notice the argument this great preacher makes from Rom. 14: 17, 18, that unites every shade of irreligious as well as religious doctrine advocated in the world.

Physically the earth makes her revolutions and nature produces her times and seasons: and it is just as true that in the whirl of moral sentiments in human affairs, God also is introducing his "times and seasons" which may be observed if we study them, as well as nature's laws.

A common sense view as to issues existing between Romanism and Protestantism will substantiate an existing peace at present between those two great parties in the secular and religious affairs of humanity; for in the secular affairs the Roman church is in full harmony with our Protestant government. They endorse the Republican form of government by taking active part in it in voting, holding offices and bearing arms. As to the religious part they are again fully up with the times, if they do not excel Protestantism in Christian hospitalities, charities, charitable institutions and sincerity in conscientious scruples.

Common sense observation says that there is no more difference between the doctrine of the Roman Catholic church and that of Protestantism than there is difference of doctrine among Protestant churches themselves.

Therefore there is no such a thing in reality as Protestantism, hence we do not look for a proclamation in the future announcing that we have glided into a change that Romanism and Protestantism have united which is to fulfill that prophecy,—"cause to worship the former beast," but the change has already come and is fulfilled and the time of the beast having two horns like a lamb is a thing of the past and the Mother and the Daughters are already being joined which brings us into the fourth form of the beast described in Rev. 17: 1, 7, under which form a judgment is to come.

Blessed Promises.

(Essay read at the Brethren's prayermeeting at New Enterprise, by sister Flora Horner, on Sunday evening Oct. 31, 1886.)

As the star in the east guided the wise men to the infant Jesus, so do the blessed promises guide people to their Saviour, and after he is found, light their pathway through the journey of life. "For thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

All through the Bible we find the promises scattered, each one showing some of the love the father has for the children.

Their influence cannot be measured. With the power of the spirit, and the grace of God, they convert sinners, bring back the wanderer, strengthen the weak, comfort the troubled and encourage all who are trying to do good.

To the sinner wandering far away from the paths of virtue into forbidden ones of vice, who has at last become tired of living without Christ, and who is striving to gain light, these words of the Master are precious indeed. "I am the way, the truth and the life." I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Sometimes the person who is seeking Christ has lived so far away from Him, and wasted so many years in sinning, that when he desires to come to Him for pardon and peace, his sins rise like impassable mountains between him and his Saviour.

Then bowed down in sorrow and feeling altogether unworthy, the blessed promise, "whosoever will, may come," gives him hope of his acceptance, and the mountain rolls away like fog before the sun.

After starting on the Christian life, persons often lose their zeal for good works, neglect the means of grace, and gradually go back to their old condition. When they realize that they have wandered, how sweet are the promises implied in the parable of the prodigal, and how comforting are the words of the Psalmist, "Like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." He knoweth our frame, He remembreth that we are dust." Makes us remember the Lord knows all about our temptation, how weak the flesh is, and how easy it is sometimes to err.

It is encouraging to all who are working for the conversion of souls to know that "He who converteth a sinner from the error of his ways, shall save a soul from death, and hide a multitude of sins."

The promises are given, that the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much," and "all things ye shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive." To those who are trying to follow in the footsteps of the meek and lowly Jesus, trying to overcome evil with good, many promises are given, that encourage them to continue to work in their noblest of professions.

May we all experience the blessedness of the promises and turn to them for help in time of need, and may we ever remember that "He is able to save them to the uttermost, that come unto Him seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Be Resigned To Your Lot.

We are sometimes tempted to envy others, and to imagine that if we were placed in their circumstances, we would be perfectly contented and free from all care. But if we knew the burdens which they bear, the secret sorrows which they feel, and the embarrassments which surround them, we would perhaps greatly prefer our own condition. "Every heart knoweth its own bitterness, and a stranger intermeddleth not therewith." It is true wisdom to be resigned to our lot, however trying it may be, and instead of seeking to flee from the evils we endure to those we know not of, to make the best of our condition, endure with patience, and trust in God for support.

OUR DEAD.

In the Somerset church, Somerset county, Pa., Nov. 1, 1886, Robert Guy, infant son of brother and sister John L. Saylor, aged 1 year, and 9 days. "Is it well with the child?" "It is well for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Funeral services at the Trent meeting house by the undersigned. JOHN H. KNEPPER.

Berlin, Pa., Nov. 5, 1886.

MARRIED.

MILES-WHITEHEAD.—At the residence of David Augustine, in St. Joe Co., Ind., on the evening of Oct. 31st, Mr. Frank Miles and Miss Ollie Whitehead. Both of Milford, Ind. Many valuable presents were received, and all present had a very enjoyable time

J. M. RITTGERS.